

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-11 (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A memory accessible to an application program being executed on a data processing system, comprising:

an object-oriented data structure stored in said memory, the data structure for encapsulating data used by the application program and including a base dictionary object implemented as a hashtable and being capable of storing value type data and container type data, said container type data being capable of ~~itself~~ storing said value type data and said container type data, said base dictionary object containing at least one datum of either said value type data or said container type data and having a name arranged in a table, said base dictionary object being chosen from a class of dictionary objects, said data being encapsulated by adding said at least one datum to an empty instance of said base dictionary object and, if said datum is of said value type data, storing said datum under its respective name in said base dictionary object and, if said datum is of said container type data, creating a new dictionary sub-object stored in, and accessible from, said base dictionary object under its respective name, said sub-object being capable of storing said value type data and said container type data; wherein additional data may be dynamically added to said base dictionary object, said sub-object or an additional sub-object according to its respective type.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The memory according to claim 12 wherein the data structure further comprises at least one marker for separating corresponding ones of either said container type datum or said value type datum.

15. (Previously Presented) The memory according to claim 14 wherein said marker comprises a character included with said name corresponding to said datum.

16. (Previously Presented) The memory according to claim 12 further comprising a database for storing said data.

17. (Previously Presented) The memory according to claim 12 wherein said data originates from a web page.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for encapsulating data for storage thereof, each datum being one of value type data and container type data, wherein said container type data is itself capable of storing said value type data and said container type data, said method comprising:

choosing a base dictionary object from a class of dictionary objects, said dictionary object capable of storing said value type data and said container type data;

creating an empty instance of said base dictionary object and implementing a hashtable in said base dictionary object for storing said datum; and

adding a datum to said base dictionary object, said datum having a name arranged in a table, wherein if said datum is of said value type data, storing said datum under its respective name in said base dictionary object and, if said datum is of said container type data, creating a new dictionary sub-object stored in, and accessible from, said base dictionary object under its respective name, said sub-object being capable of storing said value type data and said container type data.

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19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 further comprising:
obtaining an additional datum;
adding said additional datum to said base dictionary object under its respective name if
said additional datum is of said value type data;
adding said additional datum to said sub-object under its respective name if said
additional datum is of said value type data and a member of said sub-object; and
creating an additional dictionary sub-object stored in and accessible from said base
dictionary object under its respective name if said additional datum is of said container type data.
20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19 further comprising
repeating the adding and creating for at least one further datum included in a set of said data.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 further comprising
storing said datum in a database.
23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 further comprising
including a marker with said respective name corresponding to said datum for separating said
datum from others of said data.
24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein said data
originates from a web page.
25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the
determination that said datum is of said container type data is made based on the determination
that said name corresponding to said datum includes a container indicia.

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26. (Currently Amended) A method for updating a set of data encapsulated in a base dictionary object implemented as a hashtable to include a new datum, each datum in said set of data being one of a value type data and a container type data and having a name arranged in a table, said value type data capable of being stored in said container type data, said method comprising:

determining a name and type of said new datum;

if said type of said new datum is said value type, searching said table to determine if said name of said new datum is included in said table, if said name of said new datum is included, updating said base dictionary object with said new datum, if said name of said new datum is not included, adding said new datum to said base dictionary object and adding its respective name to said table; and

if said name of said new datum is said container type, searching said table to determine if a sub-object exists having said name of said new datum, if said sub-object exists, updating said sub-object to include said new datum, if said sub-object does not exist, creating a new sub-object including said new datum and storing said new sub-object in said base dictionary object.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein said new datum originates from a web page.